

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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IN EXOTIC LANDS OR CLOSE TO HOME, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TRAINS U.S. BIOLOGISTS

Three American graduate students are in Zambia this year, studying fish in the Kafue River flats -- and thereby earning credits at the University of Idaho.

They, and dozens of others like them, are engaged in a joint Federal-State education program which has trained more than 5,000 fishery and wildlife biologists--and become international in scope.

Students are conducting fishery research at 23 universities and wildlife research at 18 universities, guided by professionals with the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

These cooperative centers bring together the capabilities of the Bureau, universities, State conservation agencies and the Wildlife Management Institute, a privately endowed conservation agency that assists in financial support of wildlife units.

Commissioner Charles H. Meacham of the Fish and Wildlife Service says: "The shortage of professionally trained biologists has hampered research and management activities. The cooperative training units are providing skilled personnel to fill these needs."

Students completing training programs receive undergraduate and graduate degrees and take up many pursuits, including the Peace Corps. Most of them, however, are employed by governmental fish and wildlife agencies, private conservation groups and universities. Many of BSFW's top officials are former students of these programs, which began 34 years ago for wildlife and 8 years ago for fisheries.

Each unit has a leader and most have an assistant leader provided by BSFW. Unit activities are guided by a coordinating committee composed of the university, the Bureau and other cooperators.

Some units undertake research in pesticides, electronic surveillance of animals, isotope marking and radiation biology. Other projects may range from analysis of environmental factors to habits of song birds. Studies may be made of natural resources such as freshwater streams, ponds, lakes and coastal waters.

Cooperative fishery and wildlife research units are located at:

Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.
University of Arizona, Tucson
Colorado State University, Fort Collins
University of Idaho, Moscow
Iowa State University, Ames
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
University of Maine, Orono
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Missouri, Columbia
Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
Ohio State University, Columbus
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
South Dakota State University, Brookings
Utah State University, Logan
Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg

Cooperative fishery units are located at:

Humboldt State College, Arcata, Calif.
University of Georgia, Athens
University of Hawaii, Honolulu
Montana State University, Bozeman
North Carolina State University, Raleigh
Oregon State University, Corvallis
University of Washington, Seattle

Cooperative wildlife research units are located at:

University of Alaska, College
University of Montana, Missoula

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